GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5789
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2007
MISSING OF DEFENCE PERSONNEL
Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any report on the missing of defence personnel in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): No defence personnel in the Officers' cadre has been reported missing. The details regarding number of Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBORs) reported missing are as follows:

S. No.	Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
1.	2004	Nil	-	08
2.	2005	02	-	04
3.	2006	04	01	05
	Total	06	01	17

When a defence personnel becomes absent without leave (AWL), efforts are made initially to trace the individual. Subsequently, a Court of Inquiry is ordered to look into the circumstances in which the defence personnel went missing. If the Court of Inquiry establishes that the defence personnel is not a deserter and is missing, the terminal benefits as applicable except death gratuity or ex-gratia are released to the Next of Kin (NOK) of such personnel after one year from the date the individual is reported as missing, in accordance with the laid down procedure. However, in case where the Court of Inquiry establishes that the missing defence personnel is a deserter, the terminal benefits are not released. Efforts are also made to apprehend the deserter with the help of civil authorities.